

**Color Atlas of Pediatric Dermatology**, Samuel Weinberg, M.D., F.H.A.P., F.A.C.P., Morris Leider, M.D., and Lewis Shapiro, M.D., F.A.C.P. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1975. (224 pp; \$42.50)

In the process of reviewing any book, the reviewer must be able to ask what the aim of the authors was and must be able to determine whether the aim was met. The aim of Weinberg, Leider, and Shapiro was to produce a group of annotated pictures of cutaneous conditions in the young, and for that task they have done an excellent job. They have included 773 clinical photographs and histologic sections covering a variety of cutaneous problems from the most common to the extremely rare. The original pictures must have been excellent and the techniques used for their reproduction by the publisher of highest quality. The end result is a fine collection of pictures, easily recognized by anyone who has had experience in seeing patients with such problems.

The authors were somewhat torn I suspect in deciding what their aim actually was, however. They state that they were not attempting to write a textbook of dermatology or pediatrics, but they include short introductory sections on basic dermatologic science, principles of clinical diagnosis, principles of dermatologic therapy, and some material on gross and microscopic pathology. These sections are so incomplete and superficial that they are useless. The same criticism can be leveled at the short sections (averaging 100 words per picture) that are found below each illustration. These have to be incomplete descriptions of the disease entities which omit any significant discussion of differential diagnosis and are nowhere near as valuable as the same amount of text would have been if each disease entity or group of entities were considered in toto.

The format of the volume is not uniform. The work is divided into 20 sections (using the usual type of clinical etiologic classification—toxic, acneiform and pyodermatous conditions, treponemal, viral and mycobacterial diseases, etc.), but the sections (save for one on zoonosis) are not noted in the text and the reader really has no way of knowing where he is at any given point. I found myself going back repeatedly to the table of contents to solve this problem—a less than optimum course of action.

For those who know something about the field, the book will be valuable. The pictures can be used by teachers to show learners examples of disease or by clinicians to compare what they see in front of them to what others call the same disease. I do not

see how the work can be used as an aid to diagnosis of the unknown unless one is to run through the entire volume to compare the unknown with a large number of knowns.

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**Color Atlas of Pediatrics**, Martha Kynski-Klein, M.D. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, 1975. (416 pp, 636 illustrations; \$37.95)

The *Color Atlas of Pediatrics* is a comprehensive collection of clinical photographs which are organized into sections from infancy to adolescence. The author has attempted to present examples of normal and disease phenomena in all stages of child development. The photos are clear and illustrative, thus fulfilling that aim. The accompanying legends are brief and concise.

The section on the newborn is of particular value with examples of normal appearance, birth trauma, congenital malformations, and emergency conditions. The subsequent sections demonstrate normal childhood development, infections, noninfectious disease states, and congenital and genetic syndromes.

This book will serve as a useful and ready visual reference to pediatric dermatologic problems. It has value to the dermatologists interested in pediatrics and to pediatricians interested in dermatologic problems of childhood.

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**Color Atlas of Rheumatology**, A. C. Boyle, M.D. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, 1974. (128 pp; \$15.95)

The *Color Atlas of Rheumatology* by A. C. Boyle is one of the series published by the Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. Although this volume is of more value to the rheumatologist than the dermatologist, it covers some areas that are of common interest to both specialties. The photographs are generally of excellent quality and the format is such that the volume can be read easily and quickly.

Unfortunately, more lucid descriptions and, in some instances, better photographs are available in the standard dermatology textbooks for diseases such as psoriasis, Reiter's syndrome, lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, and dermatomyositis. Although the author of this volume considers Reiter's syndrome to have a classic triad of clinical signs, greater emphasis should have been placed on the cutaneous and mucous membrane lesions in